



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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January 12, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Tri-Cities Drug Task Force, including: the Nebraska State Patrol, FBI, Grand Island Police Department, the Hall County Sheriff's Office, the Adams County Sheriff's Office, the Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, the Hastings Police Department, the Hall County Attorney's Office, IRS, the Kearney Police Department, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release: On January 9, 2008, the Honorable Richard G. Kopf sentenced Francisco Galvan-Valdez, a/k/a "Charlie", to 15 years and 8 months (a total of 188 months) imprisonment for his conviction on a charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute methamphetamine. Galvan-Valdez conspired with others, including his co-defendant Jose Romo-Corrales, to distribute at least 33 pounds of methamphetamine in the Grand Island, Nebraska, area. Galvan-Valdez was also sentenced to a five year term of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment. Galvan-Valdez' sentence was increased by approximately three years for possession of firearms during his drug conspiracy. Galvan-Valdez agreed to forfeit \$3,013 in cash seized from him and Romo-Corrales during their arrest on May 30, 2007, at their residence in Grand Island, Nebraska. At the time of the arrest, officers also seized methamphetamine, a methamphetamine re-rocking (cutting) operation, and several firearms.

Name of Defendant: Francisco Galvan-Valdez

AKA: "Charlie", "Carlos"

Age: 30

City of Residence: Grand Island, Nebraska

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Count I. Conspiracy to

distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams or more of a substance containing methamphetamine in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846. The maximum penalties include not less than 10 years to more than life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$4,000,000, or both such fine and imprisonment, a term of supervised release of at least 5 years and a \$100 special assessment. Count IV is a criminal forfeiture of \$3,013.00 in U.S. currency seized pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853. Counts II, III and V were dismissed per the plea agreement.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Hall County, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Hall County, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: Count I. 500 grams or more of methamphetamine. Count IV. \$3,013.00.

Others Charged in Same Scheme: Jose Romo-Corrales, a/k/a "Beto", sentenced on December 22, 2008, to 210 months imprisonment.

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: Count I. January 1, 2005, and on or about May 30, 2007

Federal Arrest Date: June 4, 2007

Date Complaint Issued: June 4, 2007

Indictment Returned Date: June 19, 2007

Initial Appearance Date: June 12, 2007

Plea or Trial and Date(s): October 17, 2008

Sentencing Date: January 9, 2009

Assigned Magistrate Judge: The Honorable David L. Piester

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Held without bond

In Continuous Custody Since: May 30, 2007

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Richard G. Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: LMW